

FM WHITE HOUSE

ZEM

CONFIDENTIAL [REDACTED] WH29727

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DELIVER TO WINSTON LORD FOR DR. KISSINGER AT
OPENING OF BUSINESS

FROM: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM (SONNENF)

DOS review completed.

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER

MORI PER C03354521

TONAX 9

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

FOLLOWING IS STATE DEPARTMENT'S PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF
THE WEST GERMAN ELECTIONS (EDITTED SLIGHTLY).

THE BRANDT GOVERNMENT HAS EMERGED FROM THE NOVEMBER 19
ELECTIONS WITH SOME 48 MORE SEATS IN THE BUNDESTAG THAN THE
OPPOSITION CDU/CSU AND WITH AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY FOR THE
COALITION OF MORE THAN 20 BUNDESTAG VOTES. THIS WILL ENABLE BRANDT
TO FORM A STABLE GOVERNMENT WITH HIS FDP COALITION PARTNER, WHICH
HE AND WALTER SCHEEL WILL QUICKLY DO. THE ELECTION OUTCOME
CONSTITUTES A PERSONAL TRIUMPH FOR BRANDT AND A POPULAR MANDATE
FOR HIM TO CONTINUE HIS FOREIGN POLICY BOTH IN THE EAST AND IN
THE WEST. IT ALSO INDICATES THAT A MAJORITY OF THE GERMAN PUBLIC
IS CONFIDENT THAT BRANDT WILL, IF GIVEN TIME, BE ABLE TO DEAL
SUCCESSFULLY WITH DOMESTIC ISSUES OF INFLATION AND SOCIAL REFORM.

THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS EMERGE FROM THE ELECTION OUTCOME:

-- THE SPD, UNDER BRANDT'S LEADERSHIP, HAS FOR THE FIRST TIME
BECOME THE LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY IN THE FRG. IT IS THUS CLEAR
THAT THE GERMAN POPULATION NOW VIEW BOTH MAJOR PARTIES AS
COMPETENT TO GOVERN BUT, BY GIVING MORE THAN 8 PERCENT TO
THE SMALL FDP, HAVE ALSO SHOWN A DESIRE TO MAINTAIN A THIRD

PARTY AS A GUARANTEE AGAINST EXCESSIVE ORIENTATION TOWARD THE

-- EXTREME PARTIES OF THE RIGHT AND LEFT WERE PRACTICALLY

ELIMINATED IN THE ELECTION. THIS IS COMPLEMENTED BY

THE EXTRAORDINARY VOTER PARTICIPATION OF 98 PERCENT OF THE

ELIGIBLE VOTERS DESPITE BAD WEATHER IN MANY AREAS. IT (GSO VICEENT FRONT
IS RECORD NOW CLOSELY THE WEST GERMAN POPULATION

FEELS INVOLVED IN THE FREE POLITICAL SYSTEM WHICH HAS BEEN

DEVELOPED IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD.

-- WHILE THE CDU HAS SUFFERED A MAJOR DEFEAT IT STILL

RETAINS THE SUPPORT OF SOME 45 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION.

ITS FUTURE AS A VIABLE PARTY IS NOT IN DOUBT. THERE WILL

UNQUESTIONABLY BE WIDE RANGING CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP, HOWEVER,

AND BARZEL MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO RETAIN HIS HOLD ON THE TOP.

THE FIRST STEPS OF THE NEW BRANDT GOVERNMENT TO GAIN MAJOR
PUBLIC ATTENTION ARE LIKELY AGAIN TO BE IN THE FIELD OF
EASTERN POLICY. THE CHANCELLOR WILL SIGN THE GENERAL RELATIONS
TREATY WITH THE GDR IN EAST BERLIN BEFORE CHRISTMAS. THIS
WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE FULL-SCALE EMERGENCE OF THE GDR ON
THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE. THE FRG WILL INVOLVE ITSELF
DEEPLY IN THE CSCE AND MBFR TALKS WHICH IT WILL VIEW AS AN
EXTENSION OF THE BRANDT EASTERN POLICY. (ON MBFR IN PARTICULAR,
THIS MAY PRODUCE SOME PROBLEMS FOR US. A MEMORANDUM WILL BE
SENT SEPARATELY ON THIS.)

BRANDT WILL CONTINUE TO PLACE MAJOR IMPORTANCE ON HIS
BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND ON ENHANCING THE
COHESION AND STABILITY BOTH OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE
ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. THE GOVERNMENTAL STABILITY WHICH THE
ELECTION OUTCOME HAS ASSURED IS BOUND TO GIVE THE FRG AN EVEN
STRONGER VOICE IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS AND WE CAN EXPECT THE
GERMAN GOVERNMENT TO SPEAK AND ACT WITH INCREASED SELF-
CONFIDENCE. THIS SHOULD SERVE THE ULTIMATE INTERESTS OF THE
UNITED STATES SINCE AN ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT FOR A PEACEFUL
STRUCTURE IN EUROPE IS THE EXISTENCE OF A STABLE AND
RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN BONN.

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